



February 28, 2019

**Testimony in opposition of HB7150 : *An Act Implementing The Governor's Budget Recommendations Concerning Education.***

Dear Chairman McCrory and Sanchez, Ranking Members Berthel and McCarty, and distinguished members of the Education Committee,

There are many concerning points on HB7150: As noted in my previous testimony on the three forced school regionalization bills, this bill legislates additional problems and not solutions to the fiscal issues in our state.

A study that you might be familiar with, *K-12 Regionalization in CT: Pros, Cons and Surprises*, done by the Hartford Foundation for Public Policy (2018) provides detailed information in opposition to regionalization; consolidating school districts will not improve public schools costs.

[http://www.hfpg.org/files/7915/3013/0299/Regionlization\\_Report\\_Draft\\_as\\_of\\_6-27-2018.pdf](http://www.hfpg.org/files/7915/3013/0299/Regionlization_Report_Draft_as_of_6-27-2018.pdf)

Additionally, implemententing the Governor's budget recommendations:

- Private non-profit school children's health costs onto the taxpayers;
- Portion of State pension liabilities onto municipal governments;
- Many other points that are not good recommendations concerning 'education' going forward.

Yet no remedies to the issue of unfunded liabilities have been remedied going forward, as in changing the pension plan. This seems to be a fiscal issue that originated at the state level and should be remedied at the state level - fiscal matters which continue to be unresolved and now to be forced onto the backs of taxpayers? Not good recommendations and some are overreach of the state.

It is my hope that HB7150 and any other legislation which has to do with school regionalization will not be voted out of the Education Committee, and if voted on that you will vote a sound 'No' to each of this and any other bills on this topic.

Sincerely,

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